VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD) User Guide

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Definitions

For questions about using My HealtheVet, use the <u>Contact MHV</u> link at the top of every My HealtheVet page.



Introduction to the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

My Health**e**Vet offers Veterans who use the VA Health Care System and have a <u>Premium</u> *account, another way to share their information. The **VA CCD** was designed to allow Veterans to share their VA health information electronically, with a non-VA health care system or provider.

The **VA CCD** is a summary of essential health and medical care information from your VA health record. It gives non-VA providers access to your most important VA health information at the point of care.

The design of the **VA CCD** allows you to share a **summary** of your VA health information with a non-VA health care system or provider.

The Department of Veterans Affairs takes safeguarding and protecting your information very seriously. You should, too. You control access to your personal information. It is your responsibility to keep your information private and protected. Remember, once you have downloaded your information from My HealtheVet, it is your responsibility to keep it safe and private. Learn more about <u>protecting your personal</u> health information.

- Remember, once you download your information from My HealtheVet, it is your responsibility to keep it safe and private. Learn more about how you can <u>protect your personal health information</u>.
- My HealtheVet gives you an Account Activity History. This shows when your data was downloaded. You can also see who accessed your information.
- Select the Privacy & Security link for more information about My HealtheVet policies.
- If you chose to open or download a PDF file, you create a temporary file on the computer. This file
 can be viewed by others. To reduce the chance of others viewing your VA Blue Button and/or VA
 Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD), you should **Not** download your data to public or shared
 computers.

*To get a My HealtheVet Premium account, you will need to go through authentication. VA verifies a Veterans' identity by this process. This is done before allowing access to your VA health record

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What Is Needed to Use the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

To access your **VA CCD** you must:

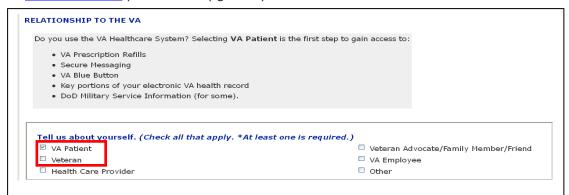
- Be a Veteran enrolled at a VA health care facility
- Be registered as a VA Patient in My HealtheVet
- Have a My HealtheVet Premium account*

*To get a My Health**e**Vet Premium account, you will need to go through <u>Authentication</u>. The VA verifies a Veterans' identity by this process. This is done before allowing access to your VA health record. The first step to obtaining a Premium account is to register for a My Health**e**Vet account.

Have a My HealtheVet account



- To begin, select the Register button. On the registration form, enter your First Name, Middle Name and Last Name, Date of Birth, Gender and Social Security Number. If you have a special character in your name, such an apostrophe (') or tilde (accent mark) do not include them; however if you have two last names you can use the hyphen (-) between your names. If you use the VA Healthcare System, it is important that this information match your VA health record information.
 TIP: Use your Veterans Identification Card (VIC) information to match your registration information.
- If you are a Veteran and use the VA Healthcare System, when you register be sure to select the
 checkbox VA Patient, view sample below. This must be done before you get an <u>Advanced</u> account or
 upgrade to a <u>Premium</u> account. To get a Premium account, you will need to go through the
 <u>Authentication</u> process to upgrade your account.



If you have already registered for a My HealtheVet account and need to check that you have registered as a **VA Patient**, you can do the following:

- Login to My HealtheVet
- Select the PERSONAL INFORMATION tab
- Select the **Profiles** sub-tab.
- Under Relationship to the VA, if you use the VA Health Care System, make sure you select the VA Patient checkbox
 - If VA Patient is not checked and you use the VA Health Care System, select this box
 - This will put a checkmark in the box
- Select the Save button at the bottom of the screen

My HealtheVet Account Type Icons

After you log into My Health**e**Vet (in the Member Logon/Logout box), your account type is displayed by a letter icon after your name. The letter icon **B** represents a <u>Basic</u> account, **A** represents an <u>Advanced</u> account and **P** represents a <u>Premium</u> account.



When you hover over the letter-icon, it will display a phrase to let you know what kind of account you have. For example, if you have an **Advanced** account, the letter icon **A** will be displayed after your name. When you hover over the icon the following message is displayed **You have an Advanced Account**.



You can select the letter icon to get further information about your account type. When you do this, you will be directed to the My Health@Vet Account Types definition page.



Premium Account Users and the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

To access your **VA CCD**, you need a My Health**e**Vet <u>Premium</u> account. You get this through <u>Authentication</u>. The VA verifies a Veterans' identity by this process. This is done to protect your personal information and before allowing access to your VA health record. Before you can start to upgrade your account, you first need to be registered in My Health**e**Vet as a **VA Patient**. If you do not have an account, please take this time to <u>register</u>.

After you have registered on My HealtheVet as a **VA Patient**, there are two ways to upgrade your My HealtheVet account:

1. In-Person Authentication (IPA)

Upgrade your account in person. This can be done at your local VA Medical Center or Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC).

2. Online Authentication

Upgrade your account through www.ebenefits.va.gov. This is for users who have a connected eBenefits DS Logon Premium account & My HealtheVet VA Patient account.

In-Person Authentication can be done the next time you visit your local VA health care facility. Simply follow these three steps:

- 1. Print, read and sign the VA Release of Information (ROI) form (10-5345a-MHV) (PDF)
- 2. Take a copy of your signed form and government issued photo identification (Veterans Identification Card or valid driver's license) to your local VA health facility and give it to a qualified VA staff member
- 3. After the VA staff verifies your information, your My HealtheVet account can be upgraded.

Online Authentication is for users who have a connected eBenefits DS Logon Premium account & My HealtheVet VA Patient account. It can be done anytime, anywhere, 24/7, and you will not need to visit a VA facility. However, before you can start to upgrade your My HealtheVet account online, you need to:

- Be registered in My HealtheVet as a VA Patient
- Have an eBenefits/DS Logon Premium Account
- Have your My HealtheVet VA Patient account information match what is in <u>DEERS</u> (e.g., full name, Social Security Number, date of birth and/or gender)
- Connect your eBenefits/DS Logon and My HealtheVet Accounts.

After you have successfully <u>Connected Accounts</u>, if you are a **VA Patient** in My HealtheVet and do not have an upgraded account, you will be asked if you would like to start to upgrade your account. Before you select **YES**, please follow these steps to start Online Authentication:

- Download, print, and sign the <u>VA Release of Information (ROI) form (10-5345a-MHV)</u> (PDF)
- 2. Mail your signed form to the Release of Information Office at your local VA health care facility. You can use the <u>Facility Locator</u> to find the address
- 3. Select YES UPGRADE MY ACCOUNT

Note: Please allow up to 20 business days to complete the Online Authentication process.

General Information

- There are three account types available in My HealtheVet: <u>Basic, Advanced and Premium</u>. Each account type offers users access to different levels of information. To access your **VA CCD** you must have a Premium account.
- If you use the VA Healthcare System and want to access your VA CCD and view parts of your
 official VA health record and/or DoD Military Service Information, you must complete the
 <u>Authentication</u> process.
- At this time, users with a Premium account can get your VA CCD information in two file formats:
 - Adobe PDF file format: download your information in Adobe PDF format (.pdf) which is easy to read and print. You will be able to view and print it before saving the file. If needed, you can obtain a free copy of the Adobe Reader for PDF files at the <u>VA Viewer Software page</u>.

Please be aware: anytime you open/download a PDF file, you create a temporary file on the computer you are using. Your VA CCD health summary can be visible to other users of this computer. Learn more about protecting your personal health information

> XML file format: download your information in an XML file format (.xml). To view your VA CCD .xml file, you may also need to download the XML Style Sheet*, and place both files in the same folder on your computer. If needed, you can obtain a free copy of the XML Style Sheet.

*Some computer applications are not able to open a document that is in an .xml format. You may want to use our XML Style Sheet to read the information in your VA CCD.

Please know that if you open the XML Style Sheet, the content is coded in .xml mark-up language, which is not in a readable format. The XML style sheet is a companion to your VA CCD .xml file and intended to be downloaded into the same folder on your computer or flash drive. To begin:

- Select the XML Style Sheet and save it to a folder on your computer.
- Then download your VA CCD .xml file to the same folder.
- When you open your VA CCD .xml file in this folder, it may be readable.

Note: Using the XML Style Sheet to view the .xml file may not work in some browser versions.

- To access your **VA Blue Button** as well as your **VA CCD**, you need a computer with a browser and Internet access. Some people have Internet access in their home. Public libraries and Internet cafés also provide Internet access. If you want to download your health information using a public computer, consider saving your information to a <u>CD</u> or <u>thumb drive</u>. You need to have access to a printer connected to the computer if you want to print your health information.
- You are the only one who can view your health information in My HealtheVet. You choose with
 whom to share your information. If you want someone else to view your health information, you
 must give it to that person.
- You are responsible for <u>protecting your personal health information</u> you print out or download. *It is important to protect your information*. Protect this information the same way you would protect your banking or credit card information. Do not leave your printed information in a printer. Do not save your downloaded information to a public computer. When using a public computer, save your health information to a CD or a thumb drive. Remember to take the CD or thumb drive with you when you finish.

IMPORTANT: Please note that any information entered in your My HealtheVet account is for you only and is not shared with your VA facility. If you need to update the information in your official VA record, including the mailing address for your VA prescriptions, please contact the appropriate office at your local VA facility.



The <u>VA Blue Button</u> makes it easy to share your data with a non-VA health care provider. It is a tool that gives you a detailed view of your My HealtheVet information. As a registered user of My HealtheVet, you can use **VA Blue Button** to view, print and download your self-entered personal information.

Based on your My Health**e**Vet account type, you may also be able to access specific **VA Blue Button** features. The three account types available: Basic, Advanced and Premium. For more information about these accounts, go to My Health**e**Vet Account Types.

If you have registered on My Health**e**Vet as a VA Patient and have an upgraded <u>Premium</u> account, you may have access to some information from your personal VA health record and/or Department of Defense (DoD) Military Service Information. You will also have access to your **VA CCD**.

Your **VA CCD** is not intended to be a complete medical history. It only contains a summary of essential health and medical care information from your VA health record.

There are key differences between **VA Blue Button** and **VA CCD**:

VA Blue Button:

- Information is available in three file formats (PDF*, txt. and .bluebutton).
- You are able to print, save and/or download your information.
- May contain a combination of information:
 - Self-entered (all account types)
 - VA medications (Advanced Account)
 - Key portions of your VA health record (Premium Account)
 - o DoD Military Service Information (for some Veterans with an Advanced or Premium Account
- You can customize the types of information to include and the date range of the information.

VA CCD:

- Information is provided in two file formats (PDF* file format and .xml file format)
- Contains pre-selected clinical information from your VA health record.
- Your health data is organized and transportable.
- You can download and save the file; however, you may not be able to read the file within your browser
- Your file is only viewable to providers who have the capability to read or process .xml files.
- The file contains standardized information and cannot be customized.

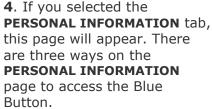
*Please be aware: Anytime you open/download a PDF file, you create a temporary file on the computer you are using. There is a risk of exposing your information when you download a PDF file, especially on public or shared computers. Learn more about protecting your personal health information



How to Find the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)



- 1. To use the **VA CCD** you must have a <u>Premium</u> My Health**e**Vet account.
- 2. You can Login to your personal account from any page in My HealtheVet. Enter your **User ID** and **Password** in the Member Login area and then select the Login button.
- **3**. There are two ways you can access the **VA CCD**:
- You can select the PERSONAL INFORMATION tab at the top of the page. This will take you to the PERSONAL INFORMATION page.
- You can select Download
 My Data, next to the image
 of the VA Blue Button. This
 will take you straight to the
 Blue Button page where you
 will have the option to
 Download My Continuity
 of Care Document (VA
 CCD) data.



You can also:

- a. Select the **DOWNLOAD MY DATA** tab at the top of the page
- b. Select the **Blue Button** image in middle of the page
- c. Or, select the word More>> under the Blue Button image.





To access your **VA CCD** you must have an upgraded My Health**e**Vet <u>Premium</u> account. Visit <u>My HealtheVet Account Types</u> to learn more about what each account type offers.

Your **VA CCD** contains information that may help your non-VA health care team and provider, better manage your health care. Your health information is presented in an organized way that can be electronically exchanged with non-VA health care systems and non-VA providers. Your **VA CCD** is not a complete record of your VA medical history. It only includes essential information necessary for the safe and effective continuation of your care.

At this time, you can get your **VA CCD** information in two file formats:

Adobe PDF file format: download your information in Adobe PDF format (.pdf) which is easy to read and print. You will be able to view and print it before saving the file. If needed, you can obtain a free copy of the Adobe Reader for PDF files at the VA Viewer Software page.

*Please be aware: anytime you open/download a PDF file, you create a temporary file on the computer you are using. There is a risk of exposing your information when you download a PDF file, especially on public or shared computers. Learn more about protecting your personal health information

> XML file format: download your information in an XML file format (.xml). To view your VA CCD .xml file, you may also need to download the XML Style Sheet*, and place both files in the same folder on your computer. If needed, you can obtain a free copy of the XML Style Sheet.

*Some computer applications are not able to open a document that is in an .xml format. You may want to use our XML Style Sheet to read the information in your VA CCD.

Please know that if you open the XML Style Sheet, the content is coded in .xml mark-up language, which is not in a readable format. The XML style sheet is a companion to your VA CCD .xml file and intended to be downloaded into the same folder on your computer or flash drive.

To begin:

- Select the XML Style Sheet and save it to a folder on your computer.
- Then download your VA CCD .xml file to the same folder.
- When you open your VA CCD .xml file in this folder, it may be readable.

Note: Using the XML Style Sheet to view the .xml file may not work in some browser versions. You can also read the same information in the .PDF format of your VA CCD.

You can save/download your **VA CCD** to a <u>thumb drive</u> and/or <u>CD</u>. This way it is portable and can be easily shared.

My Download Request



My Download Request

Blue Button User Guide | VA CCD User Guide | Learn More | Protecting Your Personal Health Information

VA Blue Button

The VA Blue Button is simple, safe, and reliable. You can view, print or download all of the personal health information currently available in your My HealtheVet account. Having this information to share with people you trust may help you better manage your overall health. View a list of the current VA Blue Button Features.

You can get your VA Blue Button information in three file formats:

- . Adobe PDF file format that is easy to read and print (.pdf file)
- . Simple text format (.txt file)
- . Custom Blue Button text format (.bluebutton file)

VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

If you have an upgraded My Healthe Vet Premium account you may also download your VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD). This is a standard electronic exchange document. It is used for sharing patient information. Learn more about the VA CCD.

You can get your VA CCD information in two file formats:

- XML file format that requires a special computer application to read (.xml file)*
 *This format may not be viewable in your browser
- Adobe PDF file format that is easy to read and print (.pdf file)



your information and your identity. Send your information to a safe site or device that you or someone you trust controls.

Remember, once you have downloaded your information from My HealtheVet, it is your responsibility to keep it safe and private. Learn more about protecting your personal health information.

This is your personal health information. Your health care professional does not have access to this information unless you share it.

To download your VA CCD:

- Login My HealtheVet
- 2. If you have a Premium account, you will have an option to select one of the following files:
 - O Download my customized Blue Button data
 - Download my VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD) data

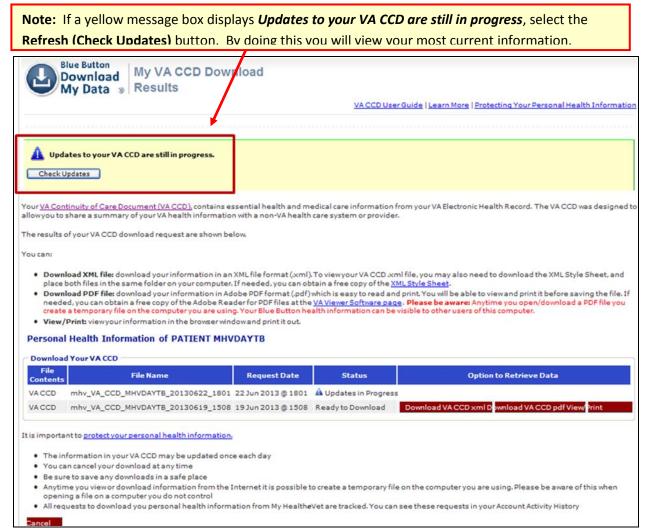
NOTE: If you do **not** have a Premium account, these options are not available and you will only see the button to continue.

- 3. Select Download My Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD) data
- **4.** Select the **Continue** Continue button.

My VA CCD Download Results

Once you have selected to continue, you will be brought to the My VA CCD Download Results page.

Here you will be presented with the information you have selected to download. You will also have the option to refresh your **VA CCD** data.



This page also gives you a table displaying the results of your download request.



- File Contents shows that you have Selected VA CCD
- File Name puts a label on your data to help you find it, if you decide to download.
- Request Date shows you the date and times you made your request
- Status lets you know where your request is (Ready to Download).
- Option to Retrieve Data will allow you to download your data.

Information in your VA CCD and Hold Periods for VA information

The table lists the types of information you may view in your **VA CCD**. The data comes from all your VA treatment facilities. Some information that comes from your VA health record may have a **Hold Period** and not be presented right away in My Health**e**Vet or your VA CCD. This is because your information may first need to be reviewed by a member of your VA health care team.

Allergies	This section contains Allergies on record with VA for the patient. The data comes from all VA treatment facilities. It does not list allergies removed or entered in error. Some allergies may be reported in the Immunization section.
Encounters	This section contains a list of completed VA Outpatient Encounters for the patient, along with the titles of the associated VA Notes. The data comes from all VA treatment facilities. It includes the 25 most recent Encounter dates within the last 36 months. There is a limit of 10 Note titles for each Encounter. Follow-up visits related to the VA Encounter are not included.
Procedures	This section contains Procedures performed at VA for the patient. It shows surgical and radiological procedures. Included are the 25 most recent procedure dates within the last 12 months. Data comes from all VA treatment facilities.
Immunizations	This section contains Immunizations on record with VA for the patient. The data comes from all VA treatment facilities. A reaction to an immunization may be reported in the allergy section.
Lab Results	This section contains Chemistry and Hematology Lab Results on record with VA for the patient. The data comes from all VA treatment facilities. Results include the last 12 months and are limited to the 5 most recent sets of tests. Results are available 3 days after they have been verified by a VA provider.
Problems/Conditions	This section contains a list of Problems/Conditions known to VA for the patient. It includes both active and inactive problems/conditions. The data comes from all VA treatment facilities. Data is available 3 calendar days after it has been entered by a VA provider.
Vital Signs	This section contains inpatient and outpatient Vital Signs on record at VA for the patient. The data comes from all VA treatment facilities. It includes 12 months of data, with a maximum of the 10 most recent sets of vitals. If more than one set of vitals was taken on the same date, only the most recent set is populated for that date.
Medications - Prescription and Non- Prescription	This section contains Prescription and Non-Prescription Medications on record at VA for the patient. Data comes from all VA treatment facilities. It shows all medications dispensed within the last 15 months. The list includes the prescription status as active or non-active.

Information Update Complete

Once your data has been updated, you will now have the option to download your VA CCD.

In the table, under the Option to Retrieve Data:

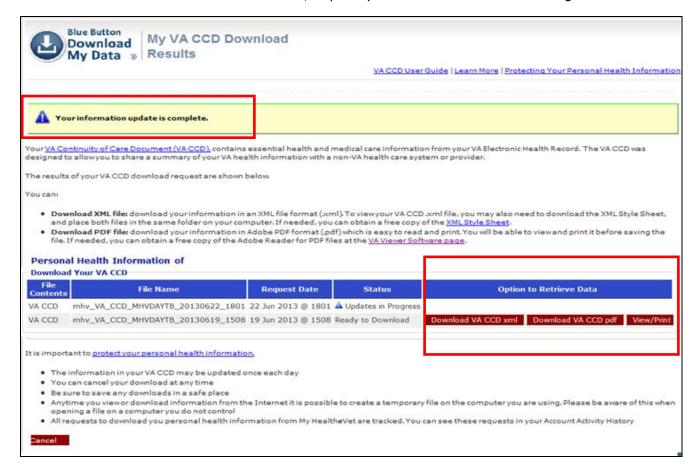
-select this button to download your information in an XML file format (.xml). To view your VA CCD .xml file, you may also need to download the XML Style Sheet*, and place both files in the same folder on your computer. If needed, you can obtain a free copy of the XML Style Sheet.

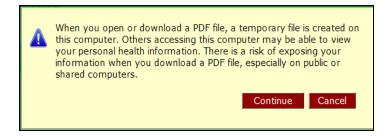
Note: If you are not able to view your VA CCD in the .xml file format, you can read the same information in the .PDF format of your VA CCD.

- select this button to download your information in Adobe PDF format (.pdf) which is easy to read and print. You will be able to view and print it before saving the file. If needed, you can obtain a free copy of the Adobe Reader for PDF files at the <u>VA Viewer Software page</u>.

Please be aware: anytime you open/download a PDF file, you create a temporary file on the computer you are using. Your VA CCD health summary can be visible to other users of this computer. Learn more about protecting your personal health information

View/Print - select this button to view and/or print your information before saving the file.





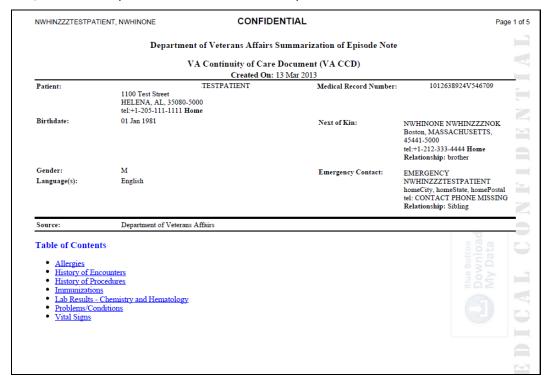


Download VA CCD pdf – if you choose to download your VA CCD in a PDF file, you will first get an alert message. This makes you aware a temporary file is created on the computer you are using. This is important if you are using a public computer or share a computer with others. This may result in others being able to view your personal information.

When you select one of the download options, a message box will ask if you want to save your information as a file. If you want to view your information, select **Open**. To download your file, select **Save**; if not, select the **Cancel** button.

Personal Health Information Page

If you open your **VA CCD**, this is a sample of how your **VA CCD** information may look. For easy access to your information, a Table of Contents offers hyperlinks to your health data. If you select a title in the Table of Contents, it will take you to that information in your **VA CCD**.





At the top of the My Download Request page and the My VA CCD Download Result page there is a Learn More link.



My Download Request

Blue Button User Guide | VA CCD User Guide | Learn More | Protecting Your Personal Health Information

To get more information on the VA Blue Button and VA Continuity of Care Document select the Learn More link.

VA Blue Button

The VA Blue Button is simple, safe, and reliable. You can view, print or download all of the personal health information currently available in your My HealtheVet account. Having this information to share with people you trust may help you better manage your overall health. View a list of the current <u>VA Blue Button Features</u>.

You can get your VA Blue Button information in three file formats:

- Adobe PDF file format that is easy to read and print (.pdf file)
- Simple text format (.txt file)
- · Custom Blue Button text format (.bluebutton file)

VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD)

If you have an upgraded My Healthe Vet Premium account you may also download your VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD). This is a standard electronic exchange document. It is used for sharing patient information. Learn more about the VA CCD.

You can get your VA CCD information in two file formats:

- XML file format that requires a special computer application to read (.xml file)* *This format may not be viewable in your browse
- . Adobe PDF file format that is easy to read and print (.pdf file)

O Download my customized Blue Button data

about protecting your personal health information.

ODownload my VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD) data

Continue Cancel

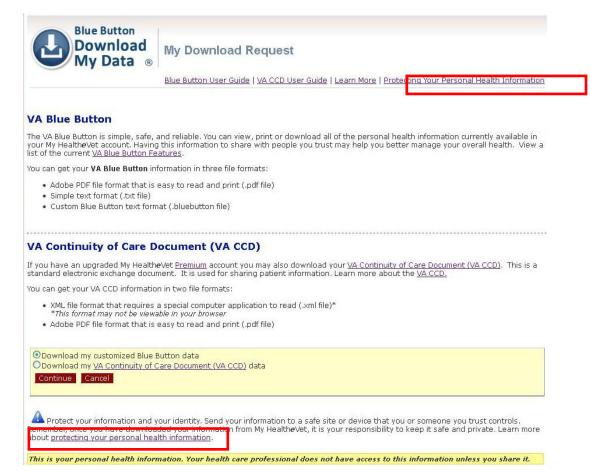
A Protect your information and your identity. Send your information to a safe site or device that you or someone you trust controls. Remember, once you have downloaded your information from My HealtheVet, it is your responsibility to keep it safe and private. Learn more

This is your personal health information. Your health care professional does not have access to this information unless you share it.

The **Learn More** page gives you a brief summary about what VA Blue Button and VA **Continuity of Care Document** are and the benefits of using them.



At the top of the **My Download Request** page and the **My Download Result** page there is a link that takes you to information about the importance of protecting your personal health information.



To read more about why it is important to protect your personal health data, select the **Protecting Your Personal Health Information** link.

Please note: When you open or download a PDF file, a temporary file is created on the computer. Others may then be able to view your personal health information. There is a risk of exposing your information when you download a PDF file, especially on public or shared computers.

Protecting Your Personal Health Information

The Department of Veterans Affairs takes safeguarding and protecting your information very seriously. You should, too. You control access to your personal information. It is your responsibility to keep your information private and protected by the protection of the protect

To leave the **Protecting Your Personal Health Information**page, select the **Close**button at the bottom of the

page. This will take you back to
the page you were on when you
selected **Protecting Your Personal Health Information**

Throughout the Blue Button pages, there will be the following reminders about the importance of protecting your health information:

A Protect your information and your identity. Send your information to a safe site or device that you or someone you trust controls. Remember, once you have downloaded your information from My HealtheVet, it is your responsibility to keep it safe and private. Learn more about protecting your personal health information

This is your personal health information. Your health care professional does not have access to this information unless you share it.



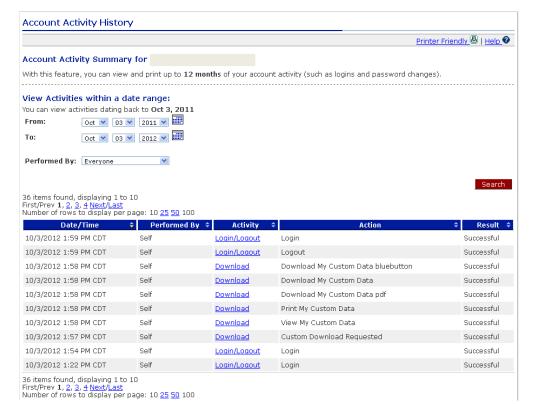
The Account Activity History lets you know who saw your account, when a change was made, and what the change was. With this feature, you can view and print up to **12 months** of your account activity. My Health**e**Vet guards your privacy. You can read more about this in the **Privacy & Security** link available at the bottom of each My Health**e**Vet page.

To View your Account Activity History



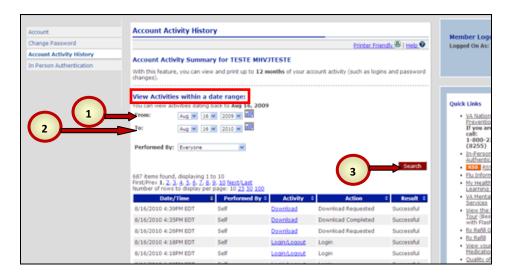
To see your Account Activity History:

- Login to your My HealtheVet account
- 2. Select the **Personal Information** Tab at the top of the page
- **3.** Select the **Account** subtab
- 4. Select Account Activity History.



When you open the **Account Activity History** page, you
see a table with the type of
activity, who did it, the date
and time it was done, action
and result. If there is activity
you do not understand, please
contact the My HealtheVet
Help Desk by selecting the **Contact MHV** tab.

View Activities within a date range – lets you choose the dates for the activities you want to view.

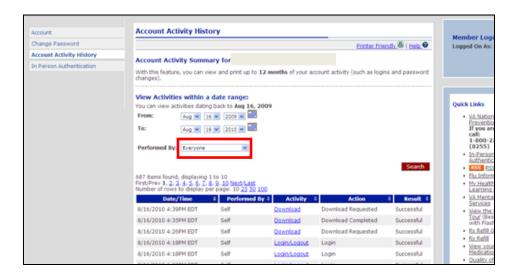


To set a date range:

- 1. In the **From:** section use the drop down lists to enter your start day, month, and year.
- 2. In the **To:** section use the drop down lists to enter your stop day, month, and year.
- **3.** To see your activities within your chosen date range, select the **Search** button.

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View Activities Performed By – lets you sort activities based on who has accessed your account.



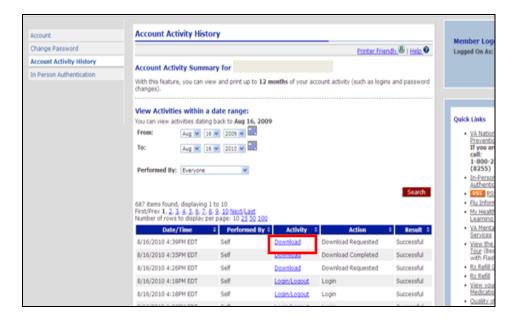
To sort activities based on who has accessed your account, choose one of the options from the **Performed By** dropdown list:

- Everyone
- Everyone But Self
- Help Desk Administrator
- MHV Authenticator
- Self
- System
- Unknown

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Account Activity History - To View Details Page

To access a detailed view of your **Account Activity History**, select the link to the activity about which you want to more information about.



You can view details about an activity by selecting the link for that activity under the **Activity** column.

This will take you to the **Details Page**.

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Account Activity History - Details Page



The **Details Page** gives you information about a selected activity and includes:

- Date/Time
- Performed by
- Activity
- Activity details
- Action
- Results

Select the **Return to Summary**Return to Summary button to return to the **Account Activity History** table.

If you chose to customize your download, your **Account Activity History** may show the following actions:

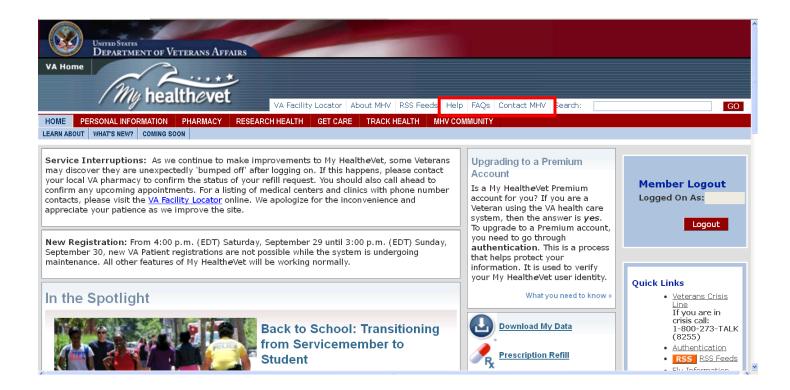
- Custom Download Requested
- View My Custom Data
- Print My Custom Data
- Download My Custom Data
- Download My Custom Data .pdf
- Download My Custom Data bluebutton
- Download My VA CCD
- VA CCD Download Requested

Frequently Asked Questions, Help and Contact MHV

At the top of every page is a white bar where you can get support.

Select FAQs to take you to Frequently Asked Questions and get answers to common questions about the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD).

Select **Contact MHV** to send a message to the My Health**e**Vet Help Desk.



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Authentication

This is a process used to confirm your identity before allowing access to your VA health record. It is done to protect your personal information. This needs to be completed to get an upgraded Premium My HealtheVet account.

There are two ways you can upgrade your My HealtheVet account:

1. In-Person Authentication (IPA)

Upgrade your account in person. This can be done at your local VA Medical Center or Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC).

2. Online Authentication

Upgrade your account by using your DS Logon Premium account through eBenefits. This is for Veterans who have connected their eBenefits DS Logon Premium account & their My Health eVet VA Patient account.

To learn more about Authentication and how you may be able to upgrade to a Premium Account, visit <u>Upgrading Your</u> My Health**e**Vet Account through In-Person or Online Authentication.

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Compact Disc (CD)

A Compact Disc (also known as a CD) is a round disc used to store information from your computer. A CD is portable and requires special handling to prevent damage to the recording. A CD is one of the most common ways to store information.

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Continuity of Care Document (CCD)

A CCD is an electronic document (in an .xml file format*). It uses recognized standards to support the effective exchange of information between health care providers.

The goal of a CCD is to:

- Provide a summary of a patient's essential health and medical care information that can be used for the continued care of the patient.
- Allow for information about the patient in one health system to be exchanged with another health system that is providing care to the patient.
- Be used by patients within other computer applications or systems that can accept this type of file.

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Data

Data is your health information in words and numbers. Blue Button refers to health information and numbers you entered in My Health eVet and the copies from your official VA electronic health record as your data.

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Thumb drive

A thumb drive is a small electronic device used to store information from your computer. It is also known as a flash drive or pen drive. A thumb drive is lightweight, portable and easy to use for moving information. It fits into the USB slot on a computer. Then the computer can read your transferred information.

.xml file

.xml stands for **eXtensible Markup Language**. It uses computer language that defines a set of rules for encoding documents. The .xml file was designed to transport and store data, not to display data. The .xml file is the most common tool for data transmissions between all sorts of applications. The .xml file format is one that is both human-readable (naturally read by humans) and machine-readable (read by a computer).

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